



ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector

Ron Fuller, Chief Electrical Inspector

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SPECIAL EDITION

● The Department Is Seeking Stakeholder Input For Proposed Rule Changes

Any stakeholder in the electrical industry may make proposals for additions and/or revisions to the Washington Administrative Code WAC 296-46B – Electrical Safety Standards, Administration, and Installation electrical rules. Proposals may be submitted from July 1, 2005 through July 15, 2005. Proposal submission guidelines are detailed below.

Rules are developed to aid both stakeholders and the department in clarification or enforcement of the intent of the electrical statute. New rules cannot be drafted simply because an individual feels that “it’s a good idea.” Technical changes require evidence of a specific problem and substantiation that the proposal will provide a solution for that problem.

The department is responsible and has final authority for developing all rules. The department will act as the correlating organization during the rule development process and may at any time promote rule change as necessary to accommodate statutory change or department policies or procedures.

● Proposals for Change

The form shown in this edition must be used to submit rule proposals for the 2005 – 2006 revision cycle. An electronic fill-in version of the form is available on our website homepage:

www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical

Industry proposals **must be received from July 1, 2005, through July 15, 2005**. The submitter may submit a proposal(s) by:

- o Sending the proposal(s) as an email attachment to TAC2005@lni.wa.gov; or
- o Mailing a compact or floppy disc containing the proposal(s) to Chief Electrical Inspector, P.O. Box 44460, Olympia, WA, 98504-4460.

Proposals will not be accepted before or after these dates. All proposals to WAC 296-46B **must be made electronically** using the form supplied by the department. All proposals must clearly identify original language as “new text.” Proposed revisions should include the relevant existing text and should use the legislative format (i.e. Use underscore (or underlining) to denote wording to be inserted (e.g. inserted wording) and strike-through to denote wording to be deleted (e.g. ~~deleted wording~~)). **Proposals not submitted according to these instructions will be rejected.**

● Technical Advisory Committee General

The department will appoint an advisory TAC made up of experts and interest group representatives to review and make **recommendation** on proposals from the electrical industry.

Persons interested in becoming TAC members must submit a letter of interest to the Chief Electrical Inspector, P.O. Box 44460, Olympia, WA, 98504-4460 **to be received no later than July 1, 2005**. The letter should show constituency support for the prospective member. All applications will be evaluated to determine: that the applicant meets the requirements for the position.

Anyone wishing to be kept informed of the WAC process should join the *Electrical Listserve* at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/Listserve/Electrical.asp>

There will not be a specific mailing list for this process. A special posting of the WAC process will be made on the Electrical Program internet website and in updates in the *Electrical Currents* newsletter. TAC makeup will be based on an equitable distribution relative to proportion of involvement within the electrical industry in Washington. TAC membership provides an opportunity for licensed electrical contractors, certified electricians, electrical engineers, electrical manufacturers, business owners, city regulators, L&I electrical inspection staff, electrical trainer, electrical testing laboratories, electrical & telecommunications utilities, training schools, and consumers to participate in the WAC development process.

If necessary, each successful candidate may have an alternate attend any TAC meeting. There will be no formal alternate assigned by the department. Any TAC member that is absent must notify the Chief Electrical Inspector of the alternate's name one day prior to the TAC meeting. Failure to make the required notification will result in the position being vacant during the meeting.

● TAC – Process

The TAC will make recommendations on industry proposals and identify proposals that may have an economic impact on other specialties, small businesses, construction costs, or the cost of enforcement. TAC representatives must have decision-making authority at committee meetings. Members who know they will be absent from a TAC meeting should make every effort to send their alternate. The TAC must review and evaluate proposals based on the need:

- o To address a critical life/safety need;
- o To address a specific state policy/statute;
- o To maintain a fair competitive environment;
- o To address a unique character of the State; or
- o To correct errors and omissions.

The TAC will operate on a 2/3 majority basis. A 2/3 vote in support of a motion, of members in attendance, will be considered as **significant support** for the motion made on a specific proposal. The TAC can propose amended language to a proposal. All amendments must be reviewed and considered during the TAC meeting. All TAC members share an equal vote. Passing proposals will be forwarded to the Electrical Board for their final recommendation to the department.

● TAC – Membership

Chairperson– Chief Electrical Inspector (non voting)

1	Consumer	1	WA Manufacturing Business
1	Training School	1	JATC
1	Continuing Education Provider	1	Electrical Engineer
1	Electrical Manufacturer Representative	1	Electrical Testing Laboratory
1	L&I Inspection Supervisor	1	L&I Inspector
1	City Regulator	1	Electrical Utility
1	Telecommunications Utility	7	01 Contractor
1	02 Residential	2	06 Specialty Contractor
2	06A Specialty Contractor	1	09 Telecommunications Contractor
11	01 Journeyman Electrician	1	02 Specialty Electrician
2	06 Specialty Electrician	2	06A Specialty Electrician
1	AD HOC Specialty Contractor	1	07 Nonresidential Maint. Electrician
1	Plumber	1	AD HOC Specialty Electrician
1	Plumbing Contractor		

Total membership is 47 plus the Chairperson

Notes:

- o All 47 positions are voting members.
- o All contractor positions must be filled by an appropriately licensed electrical/telecommunications contractor or a representative of an electrical contractor's association in Washington representing that specialty.
- o All electrician positions must be filled by an appropriately certified electrician.
- o The AD HOC contractor and specialty electrician positions must be filled by a specialty not represented with a member on the TAC.
- o The plumbing contractor position must be filled by a registered general or plumbing contractor or a representative of a plumber contractor's association in Washington representing that specialty.
- o The plumber position must be filled by a certified plumber.

Data and Tabulation method used to calculate the number of contractor and electrician members

License Type	# of Contractors	% of Specialties	TAC Members	# of Electricians	% of Specialties	TAC Members
1	2,462		7	16,661		11
2	261	10%	1	1,857	17%	1
3	40	2%	0	101	1%	0
03A	50	2%	0	77	1%	0
4	110	4%	0	304	3%	0
6	547	21%	2	2,218	20%	2
06A	667	26%	2	4,212	38%	2
06B	26	1%	0	2	0%	0
7	141	5%	0	1,267	12%	1
07A	12	0%	0	59	1%	0
07B	140	5%	0	601	5%	0
07C	5	0%	0	5	0%	0
07D	38	1%	0	47	0%	0
07E	7	0%	0	207	2%	0
9	501	19%	1	0	0%	0
10	41	2%	0	59	1%	0
AD Hoc specialty			1			1
Total Specialties	2,586		7	11,016		7
JW Multiplier	.95			1.51		
Total	5,048		14	22,134		18

Note for specialties: <7% = 0 members
 7 to 19.9% = 1 member
 20% to 39.9% = 2 members
 >40% = 3 members
 AD HOC specialty can be any unrepresented specialty

Note for 01 Journeyman Electrician: 01 members = # of total specialties times the JW Multiplier
 JW Multiplier = # of 01 divided by the # of specialties

General Note: Unfilled positions will remain vacant.

● **2005-2006 WAC revision process – Proposed Sequence of Events**

- **June 2005** – File CR 101 – pre-proposal statement of inquiry
- **July 1, 2005** – Call for proposals to: amend or add to the existing WAC (open sections only)
- **July 1, 2005** – TAC applications closed
- **July 15, 2005** – Close proposal period
- **August 1, 2005** – TAC membership published
- **August 1, 2005** – TAC members individually review proposals
- **September 20, 2005** – TAC meets to recommend on proposals *
- **October 27, 2005** – Electrical Board review
- **November 2005** – Department review and final draft development
- **January 2006** – File CR 102 – proposed rule filing (opens the official required public comment period)
- **March 2006** – Public hearings
- **April 2006** – File CR 103 – rulemaking order (adoption)
- **June 2006** – Effective rule

* Additional meetings may be scheduled if necessary.

PROPOSAL FORM for 2005 – 2006 WAC 296-46B Rule Changes

Rule/Section: _____ (X one): ☐ New Text ☐ Revised Text ☐ Deleted Text

Mail cd or
floppy to: Chief Electrical Inspector

Department of Labor and
Industries
Electrical Section
PO Box 44460
Olympia, WA 98504-4460

Email to: TAC2005@lni.wa.gov

FOR L&I USE ONLY

Date Received: _____

NOTES:

1. All proposals must be **received from July 1, 2005 through July 15, 2005**.
2. Limit each proposal to a single rule section. Use a separate copy for each proposal.
3. Include supplementary material (photographs, diagrams, reports, etc.) if necessary to support your proposal.

Date submitted: _____ Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Representing: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

1. Proposal: Include new or revised wording, or identification of wording to be deleted. Proposed text should be in legislative format. Use underscore to denote wording to be inserted (e.g. inserted wording) and strike-through to denote wording to be deleted (e.g. ~~deleted wording~~).

2. Statement of Problem & Substantiation for Proposal: Note: State the problem that will be resolved by your proposal and substantiation for your proposal.

3. Check one: ☐ This proposal is original material ☐ This proposal is not original material